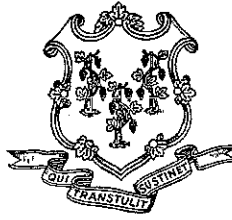


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Public Hearing Testimony

March 10, 2011

Commerce Committee

Rob Kane, State Senator, 32nd District

Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Camillo, and members of the Commerce Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of HB 6529, An Act Promoting Economic Development in the Surrounding Area of Oxford Airport.

This important issue not only affects the thirty second district, but the entire state as a whole

Of the communities I represent, no other facility is more important to our regional commerce than Oxford Airport.

Oxford Airport generates jobs. Good, quality local jobs. And it has yet to reach its full potential.

Creating an Oxford Airport Development Zone would capitalize on the airport's location in the western portion of our state. It would foster new business development, add jobs and generate new state and municipal tax revenues. As legislators, we are always striving to create policies which create win-win scenarios. HB 6529 creates that win-win scenario for Oxford, the region and the state.

This bill is not unlike the bill we passed last year which designates portions of the towns surrounding Bradley Airport as the "Bradley Airport Development Zone" and provides tax incentives for new and existing businesses. That bill will create one of the most vibrant economies in the region. It's a very smart development—we have the infrastructure there, we have the roads there, and we have the airport there.

Similarly, this legislation is a realistic way of maximizing Oxford Airport's positive economic impact. By creating an airport development zone surrounding Oxford Airport, we open up opportunities not only for the airport itself but for the surrounding towns which are also in great need of stronger revenue streams.

The net result of this small investment will be more jobs, more opportunities, and a better economy.

The sky is the limit for Oxford Airport. You can help unleash the Oxford Airport's potential by passing HB 6529.